

1. (Twice Amended) A security system for identity and authorization checking in a protected communication environment, comprising:

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a chip card reader in a format of a PC card;

a chip card having personal information stored thereon;

a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the chip card reader;

a validation means for validating the personal information read from the chip card depending on data provided by the fingerprint sensor enabling an identity and authorization check of the user; and

wherein the fingerprint sensor module comprises an interface for a connection to a network.

2. (Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the fingerprint sensor module is coupled with the chip card reader by a detachable plug connection.

3. (Amended) The security system according to claim 2, wherein the fingerprint sensor module is adapted to be slipped onto a narrow end face of the chip card reader from which the chip card projects.

4. (Twice Amended) The security system according to claim 3, wherein a slot is disposed in the fingerprint sensor module for the chip card to pass there through.

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5. (Twice Amended) The security system according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the fingerprint sensor module includes a SAM or SIM card reader.

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6. (Twice Amended) The security system according to claim 5, wherein the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module is processed along with the data read from the SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the fingerprint sensor module to yield an encoded identity information.

9. (Twice Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein messages signed by the characteristic data set provided by the fingerprint sensor module are able to be exchanged with the communication environment via the interface.

10. (Amended) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the chip card reader and the fingerprint sensor module are provided with first and second local buses, respectively, the buses being coupled with each other via a detachable plug connection.

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11. (New) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the chip card reader is equipped with an interface for a connection to a local host device to establish a secure communication between the local host device and the network.

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12. (New) A security system for identity and authorization checking in a protected communication environment, comprising:

a chip card reader in a format of a PC card;

a chip card having personal information stored thereon;

a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the chip card reader;

a validation means for validating the personal information read from the chip card depending on data provided by the fingerprint sensor enabling an identity and authorization check of a user; and

wherein the fingerprint sensor module is coupled with the chip card reader by a detachable plug connection and including a SAM or SIM card reader, the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module being processed along with the data read from the SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the module to yield an encoded identity information.

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